

The Autocruisers

Newsletter No.30
January 2005



Audrey Stokes

01.03.39 – 15.11.04

Audrey was born in 1939. She had one sister called Gwen. She worked at Bakerlite where she met Ken. They were married in 1960 and she left work when she was pregnant with Caroline. They went on to have another two girls, Elaine and Suzanne and they had four grandchildren, Amy, Faye, Ian and Philip. Faye & Amy often came to rallies when they were younger and they were a credit to both Ken and Audrey.

She went back to work at Coca Cola and retired in 1993 in charge of credit control.

Audrey was at one time an Avon lady. She liked her soaps on the television and loved whist drives.

Her last thirteen years were spent in a brave and courageous battle against cancer.

But above all, Audrey was my friend. My first memory of Audrey was the wine tasting on the inaugural rally. Margaret and I didn't like the taste of some of the wine and we passed it across to Ken. This went on for a little while and then Audrey told us to stop

She was a very ill lady when we first met and I watched her get better over the years. I remember her having chemotherapy before we went to France on the first club rally. She had to wear a wig but that didn't stop her coming across the water with us. They spent their 40th wedding anniversary with us. Carol (*my friend who came with me as Lance was at sea*) and I waited for them to go to bed before we decorated their pitch with a 35ft long home made banner which read '40 ans de marriage' which we had made up with serviettes and a lot of selotape. Ken got up in the morning and walked under it and never noticed it!

She never said no when work was to be done. She has peeled potatoes, parsnips, carrots and onions; fried eggs, bacon, black pudding and bread; laid out tables with contributed food and did it the only way she could – the Audrey way.

An abiding memory I have of Audrey is sitting in the foothills of the Pyrenees just outside of Lourdes barbecuing pork chops. We had a wonderful day.

Another time we traversed Toulouse. I said to Lance it was easy, one road, straight through. Well it was on the map! We crossed a bridge and ended up in a square. We drove round the square and back out onto the main road. We waited and waited, where were Ken and Audrey and George & Doreen? Eventually after what seemed like an eternity, Ken and Audrey appeared behind us. George & Doreen – they went back over the bridge and were lost to us. (*We did eventually meet up again later that night after some frantic phone calls*).

I have lots of good memories of a good friend and no one can take them away from me.

Audrey was my friend, and I will miss her!

Memoriam

(In memory of all those whom we have lost in the past year.)

by Sylvia Barron

*We sit in rows, heads bowed,
Lips moving in silent prayer,
To say our last farewell.
Dressed in sombre clothes
To match the solemn occasion.
Hearts heavy and full of sorrow.
The bright colours and heady scent
Of wreathes of flowers resting on your coffin,
Making a brilliant contrast between life and death.
And so we say goodbye,
As you are carried from us, for the last time.
Each one feeling a personal grief
For one we will see no more.
The clock moves on and we stand
Making small talk in an unfamiliar room.
The cup of tea in our hands,
Failing to melt the ice of loss
That surrounds our hearts.
Then a voice is heard to say:
"Do you remember when...?"
And another replies,
"I remember the time....."
And, suddenly, you are there once more,
With us in memory, smiling and happy.
The ice melts and you live again.
And as we return home,
Each one of us takes a memory.
So that, when we meet again,
We can recall the happy times.
And you will live in our hearts
Until we meet again.*

Chairman's Rantings

Sadly I have to report that Audrey Stokes passed away on November 15th after battling against lung cancer for a number of years. Our condolences go out to Ken and his family. Audrey, with Ken, were stalwart committee members of the club for many years and will be sadly missed.

So what's happened since the last rantings? The Selby Christmas Rally where the committee let their 'hair (those of us who have hair) down', was excellent and thank you all who attended and told us how much you had enjoyed it. I think the committee enjoyed themselves as there still speaking to me!

Our van went into the Autocruise for its 'facelift' (new sides, back and roof) and came back sparkling. Thank you Richard and your merry men for doing such a wonderful job on it.

While the van was undergoing its face lift Janet and I attended the Chester rally using a local B&B (does that still entitle us to a plaque Sheila?) and driving to the site each day. 26 vans of our intrepid Autocruisers turned up for an enjoyable if not different week-end.

Our first rally for 2005 is at Pidley (a good old English sounding name) in Cambridgeshire and I expect that by the time this newsletter comes out it will over and just another enjoyable memory.

Both Janet and I are on a diet after the festive season and so far Janet has lost 2lb, I have lost 4lb and the van has lost about one cwt (we had a big sort out when we got it back).

A friend of ours went to a restaurant recently and while sitting at the table the waiter came up to him and said "would you like an aperitif, sir" to which our friend replied, "No thanks, I always use my own dentures."

Does this story remind you of someone at the Selby rally?

A rich lady returned home from a Ball. She rang the bell for her footman and when he appeared she said; "Edward take off my shoes," which he did. Then she said: "Take off my coat," and he did. "Take off my dress," and he did. And then she said, "Take off my underclothes," and he did.

"And now, Edward," she said, "if you wish to remain in my service, you are never to wear my clothes again!"

That's the lot for this time, so happy rallying.



THE COMMITTEE



Peter Lockwood	Chair	John Jenkinson	Vice Chair
Sheila Lennie	Hon. Secretary	Janet Lockwood	Hon. Treasurer
Lance Lennie	Rally Officer	Tom Smallwood	Plaque Officer
Dave Barron		Caroline Joyce	
Steve Pudner		Sylvia Barron	
Margaret Smallwood		Steve Joyce	
Lorraine Pudner		Carol Jenkinson	

Co-opted

Jim Keen
Rosie Keen

Colin Granville President

Sue Granville Madam President

Annual Truckers' Bash

Alias – 7th Autocruisers AGM
at the Haven Arms, Hedon
1st to 4th October 2004
by Eric Hornby



Well I really should know by now when to keep my mouth shut when in the company of Sheila Lennie! Anyway the task for which I was volunteered is at hand, so here goes my attempt at writing a report on the above auspicious gathering. Sue and I arrived at the Haven Arms at about lunchtime on Friday 1st October thinking that we would be in good time for the weekend but found that we were one of the last to arrive. We were just about to pitch our van when Sheila Lennie came over and said, "You can't park there!" We wondered what we were doing wrong but when Sheila says jump all we can do is say "How high!" However, all was soon revealed; we had made friends with Jack Norris & Janet Sutcliffe at previous meetings and they had left word that they wanted us to camp next to them, which we thought was rather nice of them. We were also greeted (as was everyone else) by the elderly Golden Retriever that lived at the Haven Arms.

Having set up camp we had lunch and then a little look round. In total there were 32 vans and 66 people on the rally including Colin & Sue Granville our Presidents who had come over from their new home in France. On the Friday evening we went across to the Haven Arms to partake of the Punch Bowl and generally have a natter to catch up with both old and new friends. A darts competition had been organised by the committee in which everyone took part. Not knowing which end of the dart to hold was not accepted as an excuse for not entering the competition (*I know that a double negative is incorrect grammar but I'm not sure about a treble negative?*) When we looked at the dartboards we were a bit confused that there was no Treble Ring round the bull but apparently they were Yorkshire Dart boards. (These Yorkshire people will do anything to save a bit of brass!). The darts competition was very enjoyable and went on until 1-00 a.m. This was eventually won by Jean & Arthur Murray. During this competition an excellent Fish and Chip Supper stopped play for a while. Now Fish and Chips are definitely a meal which is done to perfection in Yorkshire. We all went to bed well fed and happy that night.



Saturday morning was the AGM proper and finished in record time as everyone kept to the script and all the retiring committee members were re-elected to their respective positions. No one asked any awkward questions and everyone was obviously very pleased with the way the committee had organised things during the previous year. The fact that the bar would open soon after the meeting was over probably had something to do with it as well. We like many of the other attendees took the opportunity during the afternoon to explore the locality although the rain was a bit off-putting. It did however clear up later and the sun came out for a while.



On the Saturday evening we were treated to an excellent three course carvery meal (with coffee £1 extra?). We can't complain though as the meal was exceptional and I don't know how they managed to arrange for everything during the weekend to be included at the price. Following the meal we were entertained by Stephanie St.James (not Stephanie Lawrence as Peter kept saying). She was tremendous with such a powerful voice covering a wide selection of songs from Elaine

Paige to Tina Turner. She was accompanied at times by the Autocruisers Temperance Band (or should it have been Banned). I couldn't start to describe their antics with

tambourines – if you weren't there you missed a treat – try harder next year. Stephanie had performed last year at the "Truckers' Annual Bash" and was looking forward to this year – heaven knows why! How she managed to continue singing I'll never know but continue she did until 12.30 a.m. after several encores. And she's booked for next year by special request.



The Sunday morning saw the coffee morning together with the raffle and the presentation of the results for the Football quiz by Sylvia Barron. There was a tie for first place by Clive & Cynthia Booth and Peter & Pam Bowling. During the weekend we welcomed three sets of new ralliers, Clive & Cynthia Booth, Les & Gill Giles and Chris & Penny Robson. We also had presentations to Geoff Lawrence & Pat Small who had attended 25 Autocruisers Rallies and got their weekend free as a result. There were also awards for those who had attended the most rallies during the year. These were in two categories; Non-committee and Committee. In the non-committee category Jim & Rosie Keen won having attended 12 rallies followed by Joe Beech with 11 and Bill & Vera Blundell with 9. In the committee category Peter & Janet Lockwood came first with 13 rallies this year followed by Lance & Sheila Lennie on 12 and by Steve & Lorraine Pudner on 11. The weekend was a huge success and I'm sure those that attended it will remember it for many years to come.



May I express my appreciation to you all in sharing in my loss of Audrey.

We have all spent many happy times together and this has helped tremendously in her fight, over many years, in combating her cancer

Sincerely yours

Ken Stokes



WEST COUNTRY MOTORHOMES LTD

*Simply the U.K.'s Premier
Motorhome Dealer*



No. 1 for

- Sales • Rental
- Service • Accessories
- Part Exchange
- Finance Available
(subject to status)
- Open 7 Days a Week

Visit Our Showroom:
Bristol Road, Brent Knoll,
Highbridge, Somerset TA9 4HG
Sales and Accessories
0870 750 8360

Service, Rental and Accessories
0870 750 8351

www.westcountry-motorhomes.co.uk



AUTOCRUISE



la strada

PIONEER
CLASSIC MOTORHOMES



A Blonde Joke

A blonde, a brunette, and a redhead all work at the same office for a female boss who always goes home early. "Hey, girls," says the brunette, "let's go home early tomorrow. She'll never know."

So the next day, they all leave right after the boss does. The brunette gets some extra gardening done, the redhead goes to a bar, and the blonde goes home to find her husband having sex with the female boss! She quietly sneaks out of the house and returns at her normal time.

"That was fun," says the brunette. "We should do it again sometime."

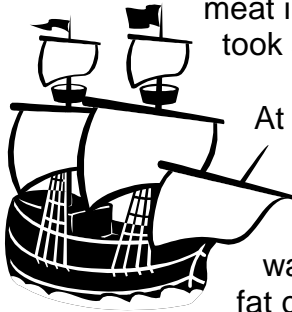
"No way," says the blonde. "I almost got caught."

One Over the Eight

Derivations of everyday words and expressions

Chewing the Fat

This is sometimes used to describe people just talking and may have come from Cockney rhyming slang for having a chat. It is more likely to have come from the days of sailing ships when the only way of preserving meat for long voyages was to put the meat into barrels of salt. This made the meat very hard and chewy and it took a long time to eat.



At that time sailors lived and worked in very harsh conditions, and if they were seen to be slacking or wasting time talking and grumbling whilst they should have been working, the punishments were severe. The only time they could get together was when they were eating and the long time taken to chew the hard fat could be a cover for the fact that they were talking and not working.

A Chip on your Shoulder

When someone is argumentative, sulky or saying that everyone is picking on them, we say that they have a chip on their shoulder.

This saying came from America and started about 200 years ago. When schoolboys were spoiling for a fight, one boy would pick up a chip of wood and place it on his shoulder. He would challenge the other to knock it off and this would start a fight.

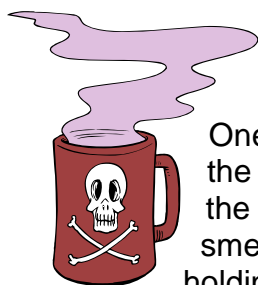


To Hoodwink



This is an expression often used when someone is being deceived or 'hoodwinked.' It means literally to put a hood over the wink or eye of a person and could even date back to falconry when the bird had a hood put over its head to prevent its seeing what was happening.

Clinking Drinking Glasses Together



People drinking wine usually clink their glasses together and say 'Cheers' or 'Good Health'.

One explanation, from France, is that the clink of the glasses completed the use of the five senses when having a drink. The wine is poured and the sense of sight is used in looking at the colour of the wine, the sense of smell when enjoying the bouquet of the wine, the sense of touch when holding a fine wine glass. Although the sense of taste will be used later in enjoying the wine, before that the sense of hearing is used in clinking the glasses in good fellowship.

However, it is thought in some circles to originate in Italian history when noblemen were often sworn enemies. The Borgias were not the only family poisoning their enemies and visiting noblemen were deeply suspicious of their hosts. The wine was poured then a little wine from one nobleman's glass poured into another so that both hosts and guests drank the same mixture. As this was taking place, the glasses often clinked as they touched and this is where the practise started of clinking glasses and drinking a toast to good health.

Codswallop

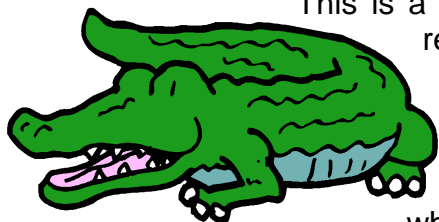
When someone is saying something which is far fetched or rubbish, we often say they are talking 'a load of codswallop.'

This is another saying from America when in 1875 Hiram Codd patented a special bottle of mineral water, which became very popular but not with hardened beer drinkers.



Alcoholic drinks, especially beer, were often called 'wallop' and Codd's Wallop' was used in a sarcastic way to describe this mineral water. This became codswallop and eventually came to mean anything inferior or false.

Crocodile Tears



This is a saying used when someone is pretending to be sad or remorseful when in reality they are not.

It comes from the old belief that crocodiles shed tears when they kill for food, which in turn comes from the fact that crocodiles have very large tear glands and when they are fighting to kill something, the agitation or over excitement makes the tears flow.

Rally News

Please make all cheques payable to The Autocruisers.
No verbal bookings can be accepted. All bookings must be made on the official booking form accompanied by the requested deposit.



RALLY DATES FOR 2005

January 20-22	Stroud Hill Park, Pidley	£40 per unit for the weekend with electric
February 17-20	Arthur Mellows Village College Glington Peterborough	£30 per unit for the weekend with electric
March 24 – 28 Easter	Banham Zoo, Norfolk	£7.25 per night with electric
April 21 – 24	Dunham on Trent	£5 per night no electric
May 26 - 30	Barnstones CC Park Banbury	£7 per night with electric £5.50 per night no electric
June 12 – 19	Malton RUFC Malton	£3.50 per night no electric
July 15 - 17	Midsummer Music & Leisure Show, Lincoln	Book direct with organisers in first instance
August 25 – 29 Bank Holiday	Drum Mohr CC Park Edinburgh for TATTOO	£15 per night with electric
September Date to be advised	Factory Weekend	£12 per person no electric
October 6 - 9	The Haven Arms Hedon	£17 per person no electric
November 10 – 13	Grove Estate Great Saling, Essex	£6 per night no electric
December 8 – 11	Bainland Country Park Woodhall Spa	To be advised
CLUB PITCHES BOOKED FOR		
PETERBOROUGH SHOW 22 – 24 APRIL		
SOUTHERN MOTORCARAVAN SHOW 13-15 MAY – NEWBURY SHOWGROUND		
NORTHERN MOTORCARAVAN SHOW 16-18 SEPT – YORK RACECOURSE		

Rally News

RALLY ATTENDANCE

If you are unable to attend a rally for any reason, would you please contact a member of the committee. We will endeavour to cancel any arrangement involving expenses thus ensuring that club funds will not be needed to settle any account rendered due to the non appearance of members. In the event of money being charged to the club, the member concerned will be liable for payment.

**Arthur Mellows Village College
Helpston Road, Glinton, Peterborough
17 – 20 February**

Price for the weekend £30 per unit.

Soup Kitchen & Punch Bowl on Friday night Saturday evening meal arranged
Directions: From A1 (N) take A43 east to Stamford, turn off A43 onto B1443 Barnack Road. through Barnack onto Helpston Road

**Applewood Caravan & Camping Park
Banham Zoo, Norfolk
EASTER 24 – 28 March**

£7.25 per night Soup Kitchen and Punch bowl on Friday night
Evening meal arranged for Saturday night

**Dunham on Trent Village Hall
April 21-24**

£5 per night with no electric hook up
Friday night – supper provided
Saturday night evening meal arranged

**Barnstones Caravan Park
Banbury
May Bank Holiday 26-30 May**

£7 per night with hook up £5.50 without
Faith supper Friday night
Meals arranged for Saturday and Sunday

Chester in November

We arrived late at night and quickly plugged in to the electric and went to bed. What would this rally bring. Rain, sleet, snow or sunshine. There was to be a wedding on Saturday and very important guests were expected. The Autocruisers invitation had been lost in the post!

We had seventeen vans parked up on Thursday night and the weekend was only just beginning. We had guests on the rally field as well on this occasion. This was also a special rally for Dave & Sylvia Barron and Tom & Margaret Smallwood, both were celebrating their 25th rally with the club. We had our Chair and Hon. Treasurer attending, in their car, as their van was off the road, due to the sides being replaced at the factory. They stayed in a local hotel. Ray, Pat and Luke White appeared on Saturday. We were now twenty six in total.



On Friday we walked down to the bus stop on the main road and caught the bus into Chester. What a wonderful city. I had never been before but I shall be going again. It has a unique character in its two-tiered gallery of shops called "The Rows." The traditional black and white buildings

have been restored and re-developed to provide easy access to Chester's main shopping streets. We also visited the Grosvenor Mall Shopping Centre. The covered in market was also good for shopping and I bought a new hairdryer and Lance bought a rechargeable toothbrush.



A stop for hot dogs, which tasted absolutely wonderful as we had both been on diets and then a walk around the city walls. As we walked around the city walls down below we could see Roman centurions who had captured a number of young schoolchildren and were explaining, quite graphically, how to become a centurion. Rumour has it that they didn't feed the little darlings to the lions but sent them home to their parents. We watched the boats on the river for a while and then hunger overcame us. Descending the walls we came across a little café and had a welcome cup of tea and scone before finding the bus to take us back to the campsite.

Saturday morning, the day of the wedding arrived. Our invitation had still not arrived! Nevertheless we all got into Chester one way or another. We lined the streets to the Cathedral waiting for the wedding party to arrive. (We should have stayed at the hotel because the Princes, and a number of other members of the Royal Family, walked from the hotel to the church.) But we stood and waited and fairly soon a large coach appeared Janet, Sylvia & I were only interested in the hats they were wearing. Well we didn't know who they were anyway. Some of the hats were beautiful and others you would have thought came from a market somewhere! I don't know who organised the coaches but they weren't very good. The first one passed must have been a 60 seater with only 10 or 12 people on board. I bet their Treasurer would have had something to say about the waste of club funds! We waited and waited and waited some more and then another coach appeared. Then the Queen and Prince Philip drove past and we all got a wave. She looked at us quite embarrassed and turned to Philip and said 'Oh Phil I still haven't sent off our membership for The Autocruisers.' The biggest cheer was saved for one poor young man dressed up like a dog's dinner, running up the street to join the wedding party. He must have overslept! Last but not least was the bride herself accompanied by her father Gerald Grosvenor, Duke of Westminster. We had stood there for so long and now it was all over. What were we going to do to amuse ourselves? Shopping of course!

Lakeland Plastics was our first port of call and a number of items were purchased by the ladies whilst Peter chatted up one the shop assistants. Her name was Elizabeth and he remarked that she was very good incognito and that he wouldn't tell anyone that the Queen of England was masquerading in a shop for the afternoon. She was a real good sport and we all had some fun with her. After that we found some jeans for Janet and then had a bite to eat.

In the market after lunch the first thing we saw was a huge Santa Claus who sang and danced. We were fascinated by him and when we enquired the price we were very surprised that he was within reach. Quickly counting the committee members present and realising that we had a quorum a quick committee meeting was held, a vote taken and a promise that we would return for the said Santa Claus after we had finished shopping.



We wandered and wandered all afternoon. We went to have a look at the flowers in the cathedral but the cost was extortionate and so we passed. We stood outside the grounds and took part in a ceremony of dedication for a Garden of Remembrance. We stood with our rain hats on underneath some trees that forever dripped onto us. The service over we decided it was time to go and pick up our Santa Claus and make our way back to the campsite.

On Saturday evening we were kindly taxied to our evening venue by the car owners attending the rally. Many, many thanks for that. (*We had been unable to book taxis*). We had a superb meal in beautiful surroundings. Many thanks went to Paul & Pauline Rees for organising the meal. We had a quiz after eating and finally were ferried back to the campsite by our taxi drivers.

Sunday morning dawned, as it always does, and it was time to say our goodbyes and wish everyone a safe journey home.



Roll of Honour



50 Rallies

Lance & Sheila Lennie
Peter & Janet Lockwood
Ken & Audrey Stokes
Jim & Rosie Keen
Alec & Sylvia Blackburn

25 Rallies

Joe Beech
Ron & Joyce Bull
Dennis & Cath Robson
Bill & Vera Blundell
John & Carol Jenkinson
Peter & Vesta Darnell
Graham & Sylvia Cork
Geoff Lawrence & Pat Small
Tom & Margaret Smallwood
Dave & Sylvia Barron

Paella for 4-6 people

Ingredients

1 tablespoon olive oil or cooking oil.
4-6 chicken breasts/thighs/drumsticks.
2oz paella rice (per person) {Sainsburys sell it} Soak for a good 20 mins in cold water.
Garlic or garlic granules.
1 onion.
Turmeric.
1pt. chicken stock approx. (May add more if needed)
1 cup frozen peas.
4oz (100g) mushrooms.
1 pepper (red or green)
6oz prawns.
Bacon or ham.
Saffron (if obtainable)
Add any combination of vegetables to your liking, also vary chicken if desired with fish, pork or other meat/poultry.
Substitute vegetable stock for chicken stock for a vegetarian option, leaving out all meat etc & add more vegetables. For non-meat eaters choose veg stock again, substitute meat for more fish e.g.. tuna, salmon, shell fish etc



Method

(Use a paella pan if available - anyone with a Beauclaire barbecue will have one in their set.)

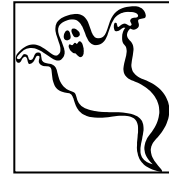


1. Cook chicken in the oven, grill or fry.
2. Cook all vegetables in oil first (not peas), until soft. Remove from pan.
3. Heat a small amount of oil, add rice, stirring continuously. Add turmeric & saffron till the rice is a nice yellow colour. Add garlic & chicken stock. Bring to the boil, stirring all the time.
4. Simmer for 10 to 15 mins, stirring occasionally
5. Add prawns, peas, bacon or ham, then the cooked vegetables.
6. Stirring all the time, cook for another 10 mins (add more stock if required)
7. Place chicken in pan & stir well, mixing together,
8. Serve in the pan. Garlic bread and salad make a good accompaniment

Many thanks to Hazel Marshall for this recipe. We tried it in France and it is delicious!



*Strange but True
Articles supplied by
Peter Lockwood*



The Stone Secrets of Easter Island

All over Easter Island are hundreds of strange statues. They are secrets in stone because nobody knows why they are there or who built them. Easter Island was a mystery from the moment the lookout of a ship spotted it in 1722. And it has been a mystery ever since to the people who have explored it and tried to unravel its strange secrets.

People have long puzzled over the intriguing story which began to unfold when the observant sailor saw the green blob of land and reported it to the skipper of his ship, Admiral Roggeveen, a Dutchman. Bewildered, the admiral consulted his charts, but no land was marked at that point. The admiral inked a blob of land on his map and wrote beside it the words 'Easter Island', for it had been found on Easter Day. Little did he know that by this action he had given a name to the most puzzling island in the world.

After he and some of his men had explored the island, the admiral wrote a report to his superiors, saying, 'The island contains about six thousand souls. All over the island stand huge idols of stone, representing the figure of a man with big ears and bearing a head covered with a red crown.'

One can imagine how that report intrigued other adventurers. Many made landings. They tramped the island and counted the statues. There were 230 standing all over the place, and apart from size varying from 16 to 39 feet high - the statues were all identical. Legless, they rose from the earth at hip level. The faces were expressionless, with receding foreheads, tight lips, prominent chins and a curious tilt at the end of the nose. But more curious still were the ears. Long and thin, they hung down to the jaw. On each statue was a hat-like crown of red stone.





Strange but True
Articles supplied by
Peter Lockwood



About a hundred of the statues stood on and around the slopes of a dead volcano. The rest adorned either side of a five mile long avenue - the sacred road to the island's burial ground. They had been carved in an unusual manner. Instead of first hacking out a block of stone and then shaping it, as any of our sculptors would have done, the Easter Island sculptor had chiselled his statue into the living rock. Only when it was complete was it separated from the rock behind and below. Then it was



dragged to its chosen position and slipped into a hole already prepared for it. This in itself was a Herculean task, for each statue weighed between 20 and 40 tons. Whom do they represent? Why are they there? Why are there so many? Who made them? It was expected that questions like these would be answered when explorers discovered that the natives of Easter Island had in their possession sixty-seven stone tablets covered with writing. The only trouble was that none of the natives could read them. Nor could the language experts of the civilised world So for answers to those baffling questions, scientists studied the islanders' legends, which had been handed down by word of mouth for centuries. This is how their story goes:



'Many years ago there was a fair country called the Kingdom of Maraerenga. The king had two sons named Ko and Hotu Matua. When the old king died, Ko became king of Maraerenga and Hotu Matua was forced to flee and find a kingdom of his own.

'He set out with a fleet of canoes carrying his wife, his followers, servants, seeds and tools. At last he came to this fertile island which he named Rapa Nui. The people prospered and multiplied and Hotu Matua wore the crimson cloak and crown of kingship.

'His followers, all aristocratic long-eared people, and his servants and workers who were short-eared like us, were happy. But when Hotu Matua died the long-eared rulers used the people cruelly and made them slaves. .

'So the people rose up and killed the long-eared ones. All of them. But they remembered Hotu Matua with love, and a sculptor named Rapu was inspired to make a statue of him. When they saw it the people were so overjoyed they asked for more statues of their beloved former king, to keep their island safe in case other long-eared people should take revenge.'



Strange but True
Articles supplied by
Peter Lockwood



But if this legend is true, Rapu must have lived about three hundred years! For apart from the 230 standing statues, there are 157 more in the quarries in stages of construction.

They are even bigger than the standing statues, but identical in appearance. All the 157 were being worked on at the same time when, for some unknown reason, the project was so suddenly abandoned that tools were left lying all over the

quarries. One man alone could not have done the job. There must have been a small army of sculptors and a large army of labourers, experts now believe. Again, in the burial ground are the bones of many more people than the island could have supported, even allowing for tombs having been used for many centuries. Both these facts point to the conclusion that Easter Island must at one time have been near to a much larger island, or group of islands. Some scientists believe that Easter Island was the holy land and cemetery for its bigger neighbour.

In 1756 a navigator named Fernandez reported the existence of a large land area not far from where Easter Island was later discovered. A ship's captain named Davis also saw this extensive land mass a hundred years later. He did not delay his voyage by landing and investigating it, but named the place Davis Land. Where is Davis Land today? There is no doubt that it has vanished. Doubtless a natural calamity - an undersea volcanic eruption, a tidal wave, an earthquake - destroyed it.

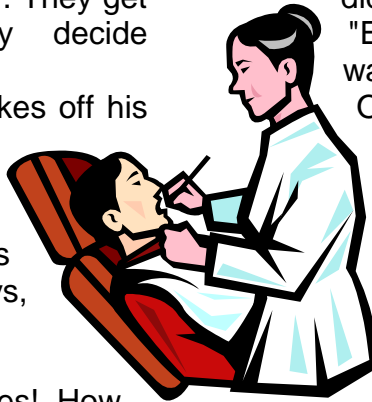
Some scientists believe that the Easter Islanders came originally from Peru in about the year A.D. 500, where the ruling aristocracy were called Long Ears.

The many expeditions that followed the great Routledge Expedition of 1919 have found an increasing number of the statues overthrown and mutilated by the natives. They will not say why they do it. They just repeat the legend of Hotu Matua. Why, believing such a legend, do they hate the statues? If only those sixty-seven stone tablets could talk! But even that would not be of much use now, for the natives have hidden them all, and hidden them so well that years of digging have failed to find them. All that scientists can work on are the copies that were made of a few of the tablets before they vanished. So far their message has been a complete blank. As blank as the stares on the identical faces of those hundreds of Long Ears that watch over Easter Island.

The Dentist

A guy and a girl meet at a bar. They get along so well that they decide to go to the girl's place.

A few drinks later, the guy takes off his shirt and then washes his hands. He then takes off his trousers and washes his hands again. The girl has been watching him and says, "You must be a dentist."



did you figure that out?"

"Easy," she replied, "you keep washing your hands."

One thing led to another and they make love. After they have done, the girl says, "You must be a good dentist."

The guy, now with a boosted ego says, "Sure, I'm a good dentist, How did you figure that out?"

"I didn't feel a thing!"

The guy, surprised, says "Yes! How

Safe Sex



A girl asks her boyfriend to come over Friday night and have dinner with her parents. Since this is such a big event, the girl announces to her boyfriend that after dinner, she would like to go out and make love for the first time.

Well, the boy is ecstatic, but he has never had sex before, so he takes a trip to the pharmacist to get some condoms. The pharmacist helps the boy for about an hour. He tells the boy everything there is to know about condoms and sex.

At the register, the pharmacist asks the boy how many condoms he'd like to buy, a 3-pack, 10-pack, or family pack. The boy insists on the family pack because he thinks he will be rather busy, it being his first time and all.

That night, the boy shows up at the girl's parents house and meets his girlfriend at the door. "Oh, I'm so excited for you to meet my parents, come on in!" The boy goes inside and is taken to the dinner table where the girl's parents are seated. The boy quickly offers to say grace and bows his head.

A minute passes, and the boy is still deep in prayer, with his head down.

10 minutes pass, and still no movement from the boy. Finally, after 20 minutes with his head down, the girlfriend leans over and whispers to the boyfriend, "I had no idea you were this religious."

The boy turns, and whispers back, "I had no idea your father was a pharmacist."



CHARITY BEGINS WITH THE AUTOCRUISERS

Dear Autocruisers

Thank you again for all your support in my fundraising for this trek. I couldn't have done it without you and have to say that it was the most amazing experience. It was tough going at times but all my fellow trekkers were supportive of each other and hopefully we'll be friends for life. I can't wait to meet up with everyone again at the reunion. It'll be nice to see everyone all spruced up. I might not recognise them!
Now back to you. I still find it hard to believe how much you helped someone that you'd never met and I'm struggling to find the words to tell you how much it means to me. Not only to me but the kids who'll benefit from the money raised. £103,000 in total at present.

Thank you, thank, thank you

All my love

Kerry

A letter was sent to the Autocruisers dated 4th January 2005 from Acorns Children's Hospice Trust. This money was collected at Selby rally, given to Joe Beech to pass on to the Hospice.

Dear Mrs Lennie

On behalf of Acorns Children's Hospice, sincere thanks for your very generous donation of £250.00 raised by The Autocruisers. Your support is greatly appreciated by the children and families who are going to benefit from the new hospice.

We have supported children and families in this area for over 14 years and we will now be able to enhance and extend the care we provide further throughout Worcestershire and Herefordshire and also into Gloucestershire.

If at any time you would like further information or would like to visit the new building please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thanks again for your support

Signed Jayne Charles, Fundraising Administrator.

Caravan Guard boost for The Autocruisers

Caravan Guard as you know are one of the leading providers of touring caravan and motorhome insurance in the UK. They offer a small discount on motorhome insurance to members of our club. In 2005 they are running a competition amongst different caravanning and motorcaravanning owners clubs within the UK.

You will find a flyer enclosed which is marked up with a code to represent The Autocruisers. So as not to create an unfair advantage for the larger clubs, Caravan Guard say that they will pay the owners club that creates the highest % response, in relation to the membership of each club, £300 as a contribution to club events in 2005.

Such a contribution would be welcomed by your committee, it could for instance help us arrange a coach for an outing, a meal in a restaurant, subsidy for AGM or Christmas rally, the list is endless.

To help our club in our bid to win the prize we would encourage as many of you as possible to complete and return the flyer to Caravan Guard.

In return Caravan Guard will provide you with a free no obligation quotation for your motorhome insurance when it is due for renewal.

Caravan Guard need to have received all responses by June 30th 2005 and will announce the winning club soon after this date so the money can be used during this season.

SLOE GIN

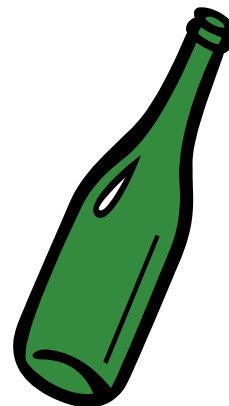
A receipt from Jack & Janet

You need

450g / 1lb ripe sloes

225g / 8oz caster sugar

1 litre / 1¾pints dry gin



Remove stalks and leaves from sloes, then wash and prick them all over. Put them in a jar which can be fitted with an airtight seal.

In a large jug or bowl, dissolve the sugar in the gin and pour it onto the sloes. Cover the jar and store it in a cool dark place for three months, giving it a gently shake every few days to extract and distribute the fruit flavour. Strain, bottle and store for 3 months more before serving.

Sloes are ready late September early October. You can use granulated sugar it just takes longer to dissolve and Tesco's cheap gin is plenty good enough.

Christmas at Selby

The committee traditionally arrive on Wednesday that is because of all the gear we have to bring and the arrangements we have to make.

Lance & I took down all the Year Long Raffle prizes to Peter & Janet's the day we went to Audrey's funeral. We knew they were going to take the trailer with them and Lance thought it was a good idea. I must admit at the time I thought he was being awkward. That was until I saw the amount of stuff he loaded into the van on Wednesday whilst I was at work. It was a good job that Peter and Janet had the Raffle prizes – we didn't have an inch of spare space!

On arrival we tried to get into the hall but were unsuccessful so we shifted the stuff into the trailer and settled back for an evening of gin and tonics! (With ice and lemon, of course).

Thursday morning and we were admitted into the hall and proceeded to decorate it up a little bit. Presents had to be wrapped before the big night and prizes had to be numbered ready for the draw. The entertainers had to practice and Sue, the owner's daughter gave us a bottle of wine to help us on our way.

On Thursday night we had Bucks Fizz and mince pies. The mince pies were baked by Beryl Brooks and were absolutely delicious laden with brandy butter, which she also supplied. We filled the evening with a few games of Irish Bingo and lots of intelligent conversation. (*I was told to put that bit in. Ed*). A number of people won bottles in the lucky number draw.



Friday morning saw most of the committee again in the hall rehearsing like mad. A number of people went out and about and were back in good time for the Peter Hughes Alternative Raffle. A very portly Santa Claus did the rounds as well as a box of booze. We had bendy snowmen, a halogen heater as well as the two white boxes to add to the prizes donated by the members present. The punch bowl was used followed by a buffet provided from club funds and a few more lucky number prizes were won and everyone really enjoyed the evening.



Bright and early Saturday morning we were all ready for the two coaches that took us into MacArthur Glen Designer Outlet for a day of shopping and we all came away with bargains. Some more than others. We got back in plenty of time to have a rest before the evenings entertainment. Which started with the Year Long Raffle. The first prize of £200 was won by George Bubb, £100 won by Caroline Joyce, £75 won by Rex Kerlake and £50 won by

Bill Blundell. Unclaimed prizes are Rob Coward who won a box of booze, Audrey Thicket who won a sectioned fry pan, Iron and ironing board won by Lesley Perry. Would you please contact Sheila Lennie and arrangements will be made to pass these prizes to you. *(I would like to say at this point that Len & Joyce Foster seemed to have taken home my DVD player. I know you had the winning ticket but what does that matter! Ed.)* We had another buffet before the committee started on the 'entertainment'

The entertainment that followed consisted of The Two Ronnies, YMCA with a great deal of help from the audience, Kenny Rogers and Dolly Parton, (Dave Barron & Sheila Lennie and guess who was Dolly Parton!), The Old Spice Girls and Abba and Sue and Joyce doing their usual stint together to the merriment of all present. This was all held together by our compere Tom Smallwood who was helped in no small way by a strange looking Margaret dressed as a fairy in Wellington boots. Well she did start off with high heels, then needed a zimmer frame because she couldn't walk in them and finally ended up in wellies. The evening ended as usual with the arrival of Santa and his helper who this year was an elf with a pair of tights that kept falling down. *(Well they did say they were one size fit all – but they didn't fit me. Ed).*

Sunday morning and time for coffee in the hall. We sold off the table decorations and packed up our Santa Claus ready for use at Bainland Country Park in Woodhall Spa. Did we enjoy it? You betcha life we did! Will we do it again? We have already had a committee meeting deciding on what we are going to do for this Christmas rally. So book early, we have two bookings already! Don't miss out.



Opening times



Open for browsing



Open for dreaming



Open for fun



Open for the kids



Open for leisure



Open for exploring

Opening time at Marquis is just that - the time when the door to every single motorhome on the forecourt is unlocked - and left unlocked until closing time. So you can browse at your leisure. Of course, if you'd like to speak to one of our knowledgeable motorhome experts, their (sales office) door is always open. But the choice is yours.

Take your time. Be relaxed. Enjoy the experience.

Larger maps are available by calling your local branch, or visit the website below which also features a full vehicle stocksearch from all our branches.

www.marquismotorhomes.co.uk

Why not try before you buy? Call Vivanti Motorhome Holidays and Rental on 0700 007 4475 or visit the website at www.vivanti.co.uk

Marquis Motorhomes is a trading name of Vivanti Motorhomes Ltd. Registered in England. Company No. 02022320. VAT No. 251 248 100. All prices are inclusive of VAT. © Vivanti Motorhomes Ltd. 2005

Marquis Berkshire
Oxford Road Chirveley, Nr. Newbury
Berkshire RG20 8RU
01635 248 888

Marquis Gloucestershire
Mill Avon Holiday Park, Gloucester
Rd Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire
GL20 5SW
01684 296 222

Marquis Lancashire
Riversway Leisure Village, Chain Caul
Rd Preston Docklands, Preston
Lancashire PR2 2XR
01772 731 313

Marquis Devon
Lee Mill, Ivybridge Devon PL21 9EE
01752 892 977

Marquis Hampshire
Winchester Road Lower Upham
Nr. Southampton
Hampshire SO32 1HA
01489 860 666

Marquis Surrey NEW ADDRESS
Verneulens Garden Centre
Horton Road, Stanwell Moor, Staines
Surrey TW19 6AE
01784 463 111

Marquis Dorset
41-45 Old Wareham Rd. Poole,
Dorset BH12 4QN
01202 738 777

Marquis Hertfordshire
Greenlawn Luton Road, Kinsbourne
Green Harpenden, Herts AL5 3NF
01582 460 583

Marquis Sussex
Eastbourne Road, Golden Cross
East Sussex BN27 4AN
01825 873 377

Over 400
new & used
vehicles in
stock

Mon to Fri 9am - 6pm
Sat 9am - 5pm
Sun 10am - 5pm

For Sale

Honda ES 650 watt Generator
Mains / 12 volt
£200

please see Sheila Lennie

A Few Jokes to Finish

There is more money being spent on breast implants and Viagra than on Alzheimer's research.

This means that by 2020, there should be a large elderly population with perky boobs and huge erections and absolutely no recollection of what to do with them.

00000000

Whilst on holiday in Dublin, I noticed three yellow lines in the main street. Curious, I asked a traffic warden what they meant. The warden replied, 'One yellow line means no parking. Two yellow lines mean no parking at all. Three yellow lines means no parking at all, at all.'

00000000

Letter of the week

Dear Mary

Did you know that we old folks are worth a fortune? We have silver in our hair, gold in our teeth, stones in our kidneys, lead in our feet and gas in our stomachs. I have become older since I saw you last and a few changes have come into my life. Frankly I have become a frivolous old woman. I am seeing six gentlemen every day. As soon as I wake up, Will Power helps me out of bed, then I go to see Jimmy Riddle and then it's time for breakfast with Mr Kellogg, followed closely by the refreshing company of Mr Tetley, or my other friend whom I only know by his initials, P.G.

Then comes someone I don't like at all, Arthur It is – he knows he is not welcome but he insists on being here and what is more he stays for the rest of the day. Even then he does not like to stay in one place, so he takes me from joint to joint.

After such a hectic day I am glad to get to bed (and with Johnny Walker too). What a hectic life. Oh yes I am now flirting with Al Zheimer.

The vicar came to call the other day and said that at my age I should be thinking of the hereafter, so I told him I did, all the time. For no matter where I am, in the bedroom, the kitchen, the sitting room or the garden, I ask myself 'Now what am I here after?'

Well I'll close now and I hope that Will Power is your constant companion too, but do make sure that his friend Emma Royd does not creep up on you from behind. And watch out for the crafty one, Gerry Atric.

00000000

Sign in a car dealership: the best way to get back on your feet – miss a car payment

On a plumber's truck: We repair what your husband fixed.

On the trucks of a plumbing company: Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber.

